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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC KMDR FR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - CIA REPORT - WOLFOWITZ

APPOINTMENT

PARIS - FRIDAY, APRIL 01, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

11. CIA REPORT

12. WOLFOWITZ APPOINTMENT

(B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

FRONT PAGES TODAY ARE DOMINATED BY DOMESTIC STORIES RANGING FROM FRANCE'S RISING UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL TO NICOLAS SARKOZY'S TAKING ANOTHER STEP TOWARD A PRESIDENTIAL BID IN 2007. SARKOZY, DURING A TELEVISED INTERVIEW YESTERDAY ON STATE-RUN FRANCE 2, STATED THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE IN 2007 TO HAVE SEVERAL UMP (HIS AND PRESIDENT CHIRAC'S PARTY) CANDIDATES ON THE TICKET.

THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION'S REPORT OF CIA FAILURES CONCERNING THE PRESENCE OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION IN IRAQ IS WIDELY REPORTED. CALLING THE CIA THE "CENTRAL INCOMPETENCE AGENCY," POPULAR RIGHT-OF-CENTER FRANCE SOIR HEADLINES: "THE CIA WAS DEAD WRONG ON IRAQ." (SEE PART C)

THE WORLD BANK BOARD'S UNANIMOUS VOTE FOR PAUL WOLFOWITZ TO BECOME THE NEW HEAD OF THE INSTITUTION PROMPTS COMMENTARIES IN THE PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA. LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS INTERVIEWED WORLD BANK EMPLOYEES WHO TEND TO SEE THIS APPOINTMENT AS THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S WAY OF "INFILTRATING" THE WORLD BANK AND DECRY THE "GUILTY ACCEPTANCE" OF THE NOMINATION ON THE PART OF EUROPE. (SEE PART C)

LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE CARRIES A FULL-PAGE BOOK REVIEW OF "THE NEW AMERICAN NATIONALISM" BY BRITISH JOURNALIST ANATOL LIEVEN. LE MONDE'S ALAIN FRANCHON PRAISES THE BOOK'S CLEAR EXPLANATION OF THE PERCEPTION THAT THE U.S. IS "A ARROGANT, BRUTAL AND SCORNFUL OF OTHERS."

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

CIA REPORT

"THE MISTAKES OF AMERICAN SPIES STIGMATIZED IN A REPORT" WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS FOR RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO OPINED (04/01): "AMERICAN SPIES HAD NO CLUE THAT SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 WAS LOOMING, THEY WERE WRONG ABOUT THE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE, WILL THEY SHOW THE SAME LEVEL OF INCOMPETENCE WITH REGARD TO THE IRANIAN AND NORTH KOREAN NUCLEAR ARSENALS? THIS IS THE QUESTION THAT WE READ IN BETWEEN THE LINES OF THE 600-PAGE REPORT SUBMITTED YESTERDAY TO PRESIDENT BUSH.

"CIA: CENTRAL INCOMPETENCE AGENCY" THOMAS DE ROCHECHOURT IN POPULAR RIGHT-OF-CENTER FRANCE SOIR (04/01): "CIA: THESE THREE LETTERS SYMBOLIZE THE POWER AND THE MIGHT OF THE U.S.. AND TO A CERTAIN EXTENT ITS INVINCIBILITY. BUT IN THE REPORT THAT WAS SUBMITTED YESTERDAY TO GEORGE W. BUSH, THE SPIES BEAR MORE RESEMBLANCE TO INSPECTOR GADGET THAN TO THE SPIES IN JOHN LE CARRE OR TOM CLANCY'S NOVELS. WHAT EXPLANATION CAN BE FOUND FOR THIS ENORMOUS BLUNDER. WHICH IS NOT THE AGENCY'S FIRST IF WE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT SEPTEMBER 11? AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE APPEARS TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR TWO MAJOR CRISES THAT HAVE HAD INTERNATIONAL REPERCUSSIONS AND DESTABILIZED THE PLANET OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS."

WOLFOWITZ APPOINTMENT

DOMINIQUE BROMBERGER TOLD LISTENERS LAST NIGHT ON STATE-RUN FRANCE INTER RADIO (03/31): "HE IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE MAIN IDEOLOGUE OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. HE IS WITHOUT A DOUBT THE INSPIRATION FOR THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION'S UNILATERALISM, CONVINCED THAT WHAT IS GOOD FOR AMERICA IS GOOD FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD. THE CONCERN IS THAT PAUL WOLFOWITZ AT THE HEAD OF THE WORLD BANK WILL FAVOR DEVELOPING NATIONS THAT ARE ACCOMMODATING TO WASHINGTON AND MAYBE FIND NEW CONTRACTS FOR COMPANIES WITH WHICH HE HAS CLOSE TIES SUCH AS HALLIBURTON AND BECHTEL. ONLY EUROPE, IF IT HAD SHOWN THE COURAGE, COULD HAVE OPPOSED THIS NOMINATION. IN THIS CASE AGAIN, WE ARE RIDICULED AND SHAMED. NOTWITHSTANDING, PAUL

WOLFOWITZ'S APPOINTMENT IS FURTHER PROOF OF THE EVOLUTION OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY. SOME OF THE MOST HARD-LINE HAWKS, WOLFOWITZ, BOLTON AND FEITH, HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE CENTER OF POWER AND PLACED WITHIN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. SINCE UNILATERALISM HAS SHOWN ITS LIMITATIONS, THE ADMINISTRATION IS NOW ATTEMPTING ACTIVE MULTILATERALISM, THAT IS TO SAY, THANKS TO AMERICAN FINANCIAL, POLITICAL AND MILITARY POWER, THE U.S. IS AIMING FOR RESULTS WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT SERVE IT."

"GEORGE BUSH PLACES PAUL WOLFOWITZ AT THE HEAD OF THE WORLD BANK"

PIERRE-YVES DUGUA IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (04/01): "MANY OBSERVERS IN WASHINGTON BELIEVE THAT THE CHOICE OF PAUL WOLFOWITZ WAS DICTATED BY SECRETARY OF STATE CONDOLEEZZA RICE TO INDIRECTLY REMOVE THIS HAWK FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE. IN EUROPE, WOLFOWITZ WHO WAS A FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA, WHO FOR FOUR YEARS MANAGED A 400 BILLION DOLLAR BUDGET AT THE PENTAGON, IS SEEN AS A CAPABLE LEADER FOR AN ORGANIZATION THAT REGROUPS 184 COUNTRIES. THE IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS THE RICH COUNTRIES THAT HOLD ALL OF THE POWER WITHIN THE WORLD'S VARIOUS MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS WITHOUT CONSULTING WITH THE POOR COUNTRIES, IS REINFORCED WITH THIS APPOINTMENT." LEACH